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## **Elected officials churn out 2,500 cans of applesauce for needy families** *Mayors' Night at the Cannery benefits food banks at 'time of significant need'*

**Littleton, Colo.** – Local elected officials are making special deliveries to food banks around the south metro area with 2,500 cans of applesauce that they helped to produce during the 4<sup>th</sup> annual “Mayors’ Night at the Cannery.”

Arapahoe County Commissioner Nancy Sharpe, along with mayors and council members from Centennial, Greenwood Village, Littleton, Englewood and Lone Tree, gathered on Aug. 24 at Bishop’s Storehouse in Aurora to produce the cans of applesauce to benefit needy individuals and families.

The officials donned hair nets, aprons and gloves, and each filled a different role along the production line as the apples were crushed, strained, heated into sauce, canned and labeled. The event, organized annually by Commissioner Sharpe, serves as a community service and team-building activity for elected officials, with all food products going to local food banks and charities.

“It’s a lot of fun for a group of elected officials to be put to work on canning operations, and very gratifying to produce a food item that will directly benefit our citizens who need assistance,” said Commissioner Sharpe.

The apples and canning supplies were donated by the Littleton Colorado Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, along with the use of its cannery at Bishop’s Storehouse, which processes canned and dry goods for charitable donations and emergency response.

Commissioner Sharpe distributed 720 cans of the applesauce to Covenant Cupboard in Greenwood Village, the largest food bank in Arapahoe County. The organization serves more than 100 families every Friday with a box of staples and fresh fruits and vegetables. Covenant Cupboard Coordinator Judy Mague stated that the supply of applesauce should last several weeks and will serve hundreds of families “at a time of significant need.”

“Thank you to everyone involved for this generous donation— for making, canning and sharing it,” said Norm Hyndman, a volunteer with Covenant Cupboard.

Other elected officials will deliver the remaining applesauce to Inter-Faith Community Services, Food Bank of the Rockies and the Salvation Army.

Many food banks receive their supply of food commodities and fresh produce through the U.S. Department of Agriculture and The Emergency Food Assistance Program. Arapahoe County's CSU Extension is the local coordinator for the TEFAP program, and works to distribute commodities to food banks in the County, which in turn give the food to low-income households for consumption at home.

For more information or to find a food bank near you, please visit [www.arapahoeextension.org](http://www.arapahoeextension.org) and click on "Emergency Food."

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**To download photos click on the following link:**

<ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CM/Photos/Donation>

**applesauce.jpeg & donation.jpeg** - Arapahoe County Commissioner Nancy Sharpe presented 720 cans of applesauce to Judy Mague with Covenant Cupboard Food Bank to benefit needy families. The cans were among 2,500 produced by elected officials during the 4<sup>th</sup> annual "Mayors' Night at the Cannery."